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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/658,890 | MCKINNON ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Brian Szmaj | 3736 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment and remarks filed on December 12, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10, 12-16 and 18-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 15, line 5:

"5syringes" should read as —syringes—

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: After reviewing the amendment and remarks filed on December 12, 2005, the claims were found to be allowable since no prior art could be found teaching or suggesting a syringe and a method of using the syringe, comprising: the vent is continuously relatively more adjacent to the proximal end than the distal end of each of the inner and outer members and wherein the vent is fixed in position to define a volume in the receptacle for receiving the blood, as claimed in Claim 1; the bridge is relatively more adjacent to the distal ends than the proximal ends of the inner and outer members, as claimed in Claim 2; a vent cap joined to at least one of the inner and outer members for holding the vent to the at least one of the inner and outer members, as claimed in Claim 5; the body distal end includes a luer lock to which a locking cap is joined, as claimed in Claim 9; the second syringe including a plunger assembly for use in selectively producing a negative pressure and a positive pressure relative to the first syringe, as claimed in

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Claim 10; the first syringe includes inner and outer members integrally joined together adjacent to the distal ends thereof and coupling a second syringe to the first syringe, as claimed in Claim 12; the coupling includes joining a vent cap to a body of the first syringe adjacent the vent, the vent cap including a mating body to which the second syringe is coupled, as claimed in Claim 14; each of the first and second syringes is free of any plunger assembly used to control blood flow, as claimed in Claim 15; removing a cap from the first syringe, joining a syringe needle thereto and coupling a second syringe to the first syringe, as claimed in Claim 18; a vent that allows air to escape while being used in preventing the escape of the blood and being joined to at least one of the inner and outer members, at least portions of the vent being located within the receptacle, wherein the syringe is free of any plunger assembly used to control flow of the blood, as claimed in Claim 19; and controlling blood flow relative to the first syringe using the second syringe, wherein blood is received by the first syringe and the second syringe is free of any needle during the coupling and controlling, as claimed in Claim 20.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Szmaj whose telephone number is (571) 272-4733. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, with second Fridays off.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on (571) 272-4726. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



BS



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